

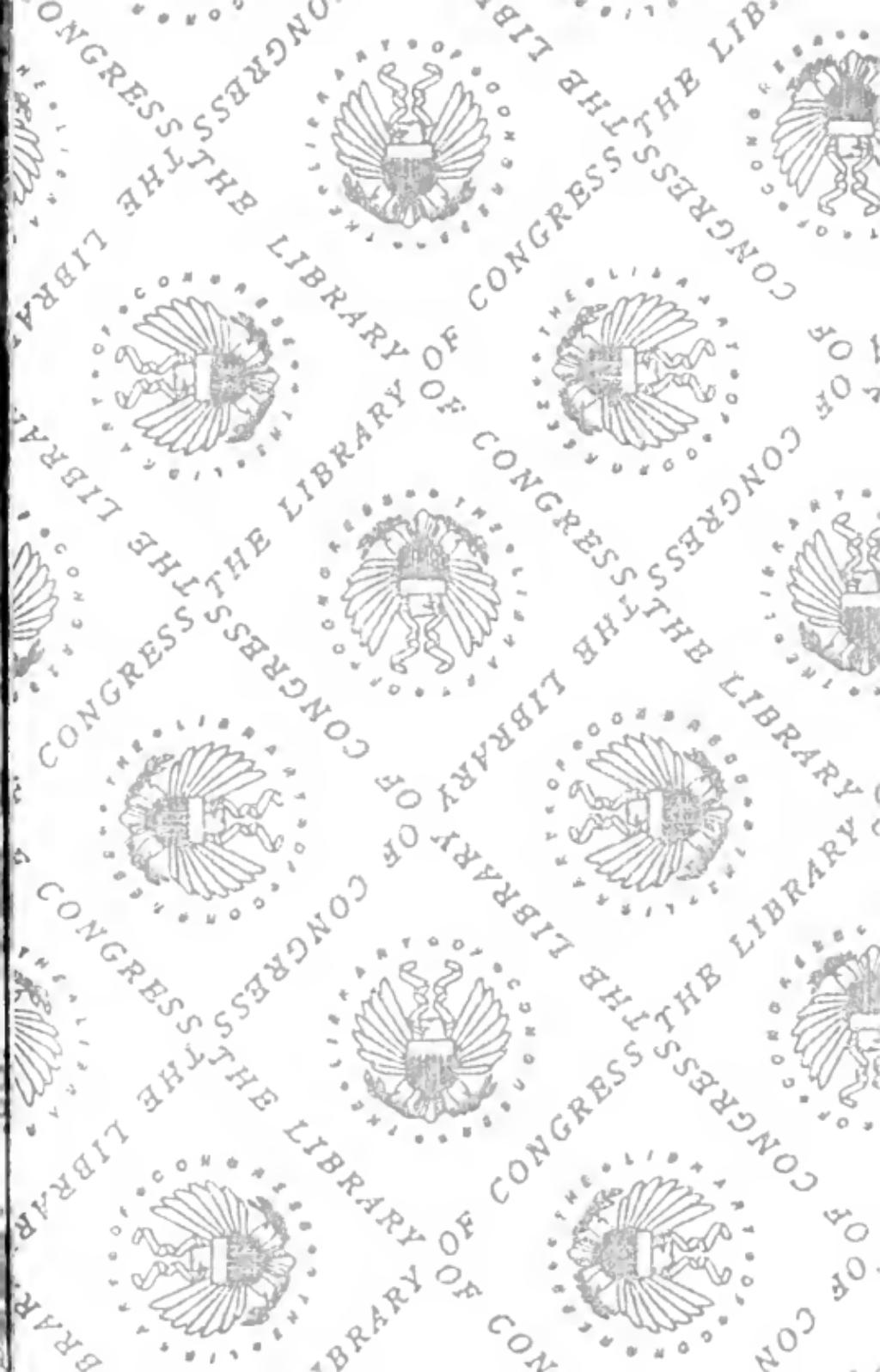
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CONSTITUTION

THE JOURNAL

OF THE

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NATIONAL

DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

ESTABLISHED 1860.

NEW-YORK:

J. BROWN HUNTER, 100 N. STREET



Printed cover of book

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

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NATIONAL

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Democratic Volunteers.



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PREAMBLE.

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The time has come when every good democratic and conservative citizen is imperatively called upon to take an *active* part in our National, State and Municipal politics—and contribute time, labor and money, in an honest endeavor, to dispel the *Fanaticism* and *Corruption* which now threaten to poison the whole political atmosphere of our country.

We believe that the present wretched condition of politics (particularly in our own State and in this City) is the natural result of years of *indifference*, on the part of the great mass of our best democratic citizens—merchants and farmers, professional men, mechanics and laborers—who in their selfish attention to their own private affairs, have neglected their *public duties*, and allowed the management of our whole political system to be monopolized by designing and unworthy adventurers and sycophants, whose only aim is self aggrandizement—whose only principle is power and plunder.

Acting under this belief, we have formed an Association comprising all classes of our citizens, the *Government* of which is beyond the control of designing politicians.

OUR OBJECT IS

- 1st—To engage and enlist the *active sympathy and support of all good citizens and true national men*, who believe that the success of the Democratic Party at this time is essential to the welfare and safety of our country.
- 2d—To make a *legitimate, honest and efficient* use of all contributions to the Association—in forming co-operative organizations throughout the *City, State and Union*.—and in publishing and disseminating sermons, speeches, statistics, tracts, &c. which shall inculcate *true national sentiments* and sound *democratic ideas*, in opposition to the false and dangerous doctrines which are now flooding our land.
- 3d—To endorse and sustain worthy and competent men for office in our City and State—and to refuse support or countenance to the unworthy and incompetent.
- 4th—To establish, in a central location in this City—a meeting and reading room, which shall contain newspapers from every State of the

Union, (and as far as possible from every county) and which shall be at the service of national men from all parts of our common country when visiting our City on business or pleasure.

Deploring the *contentions* and *feuds* which have well nigh destroyed the Democratic party in this State, and repudiating allegiance to, or connection with, any existing *faction* or *wing*,—we call upon every true-hearted Democrat to let “*by-gones be bygones*,” and forgetting the divisions of the past, join with us in rallying under the banner of the *National Democracy*, for the Constitution, devoted to the Union, acknowledging *but one Test—one Motto*—

“*RIGHT AND LAW.*”

ARTICLE I.

This association shall be known and designated as the “*National Democratic Volunteers*.”

ARTICLE II.

SEC. 1. The Legislative and Executive power of this association shall be vested in an Executive council of 99 members.

SEC. 2. The Executive Council shall annually elect a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, a Secretary and one or more assistant Secretary's and a Sergeant at Arms.

SEC. 3. There shall be an advisory Committee of thirty-three active members, who shall be entitled to sit at the meetings of the Executive Council, and present such plans and suggestions as they may consider likely to advance the interests of the association. The majority of this Committee, shall be chosen annually by the Executive Council, and such majority shall select the remainder.

ARTICLE III.

SEC. 1. It shall be the duty of the President, or in his absence, one of the Vice-President's, to preside at all meetings of this Association and Executive Council, and enforce a due observance of the Rules and Regulations. He shall appoint all Committees not otherwise provided for, and have the casting vote in case of a tie.

ARTICLE IV.

SEC. 1. It shall be the duty of the Secretary and his assistants to keep an accurate account of

the proceedings of the association and council--issue all calls for meetings under direction of the President or his legal substitute--to notify all Committees of their appointment, and the subject referred to them, and have their books always at the disposal of the Council.

He shall conduct all the correspondence authorized by the association, keeping copies of the same, and shall take charge of all letters and papers addressed to the same.

He shall also keep a Roll Book, containing the name and residence of each member, the date of his admission, expulsion or resignation, and shall notify all persons elected members of the association, of their election.

ARTICLE V.

SEC. 1. The Treasurer shall receive all monies of the association, and deposit the same as directed by the Finance Committee of the Executive Council. He shall pay no bills or drafts except those audited and signed by the Finance Committee, and he shall keep an account of all moneys received or expended, and present a balance sheet thereof at every regular meeting of the Executive Council. All checks drawn by the Treasurer, must be to the order of the Chairman.

of the Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall give bonds to the Executive Council in the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars, (\$20,000,) for the faithful performance of his duties.

ARTICLE VI.

Sec. 1. The Sergeant at arms shall take charge of the Rooms of the association, and see that they are kept in order, and that no improper persons are admitted.

He shall expel any disorderly persons from the rooms, allow no members to leave during the meetings without permission of the presiding officer, and shall perform all other duties the Council may reasonably ask.

ARTICLE VII.

Sec. 1. The members of this association shall be Honorary, active or associate.

Sec. 2. Any Eminent Democrat may be elected an Honorary member by the Executive Council.

Sec. 3. Any Democrat may become an active member, on being approved by the Executive Council, signing the constitution and paying the annual subscription : such subscription shall be Ten Dollars, (\$10,) payable yearly, in advance.

All propositions for membership must be transmitted in writing to the Secretary at least one week previous to the meeting of the Executive Council, at which they shall be acted upon.

SEC. 4. Members of any organization which holds a CHARTER from this association may become associate members, entitled to the privilege of Reading Room and Library, by paying Twenty-five cents quarterly, in advance.

SEC. 5. If any person elected a member of this Association shall fail to sign the constitution and pay into the treasury his initiation fee, within two weeks after his election, his name shall be erased from the books, unless excused by the Executive Council.

ARTICLE VIII.

SEC. 1. None but active members shall be entitled to vote or hold office in the association.

SECTION 2. No person holding a Public Office or position by election, or appointment shall hereafter be eligible to a place in the Executive Council.

SEC. 3. Any member of the Executive Council who hereafter becomes a candidate or applicant for any public office or position, shall re-

sign his seat within one week from the time he has become such candidate or applicant—should he not resign within such period of time, the Council shall declare his seat Vacant.

ARTICLE IX.

SEC. 1. If any office in this association shall at any time become vacant, the same shall be filled by the Executive Council.

ARTICLE X.

SEC. 1. The election for members of the Executive Council shall take place annually on the 8th January.

SEC. 2. The members of the Executive Council shall be elected for three years except the first Council, which on the adoption of this Constitution, shall be divided into three classes—one-third to hold office one year, one-third for two years and one-third for three years.

ARTICLE XI.

SEC. 1. The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held on the 22d day of February, at $7\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, P. M.

SEC. 2. The Executive Council shall meet on Thursday evening of each week.

SEC. 3. Thirty-three members shall constitute a quorum in the meetings of the active members of the Association.

SEC. 4. one-third of the members of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SEC. 5. Special Meetings may be called by the President, at the request of ten members of the Council.

ARTICLE XII.

SEC. 1. The Executive Council shall have power to grant charters to all organizations which may desire to act in unison with this Association. Such organization shall be represented by one delegate, who shall (after being approved by the Ex. Council,) be entitled to appear at the meetings of the Council **WITHOUT THE RIGHT TO VOTE.**

ARTICLE XIII.

SEC. 1. Any member who shall be guilty of misconduct, or neglect of duty, or make public the transactions of the Executive Council, or propose unworthy persons for membership (knowing them to be such,) may be suspended or expelled, at

the option of the Executive Council, by a two-third vote of members present at a Regular Meeting.

ARTICLE XIV.

SEC. 1. There shall be three permanent Committees, appointed by the Executive Council, to wit :

An Executive Committee,

A Finance Committee,

A Membership Committee,

Whose duties shall be designated by the Council.

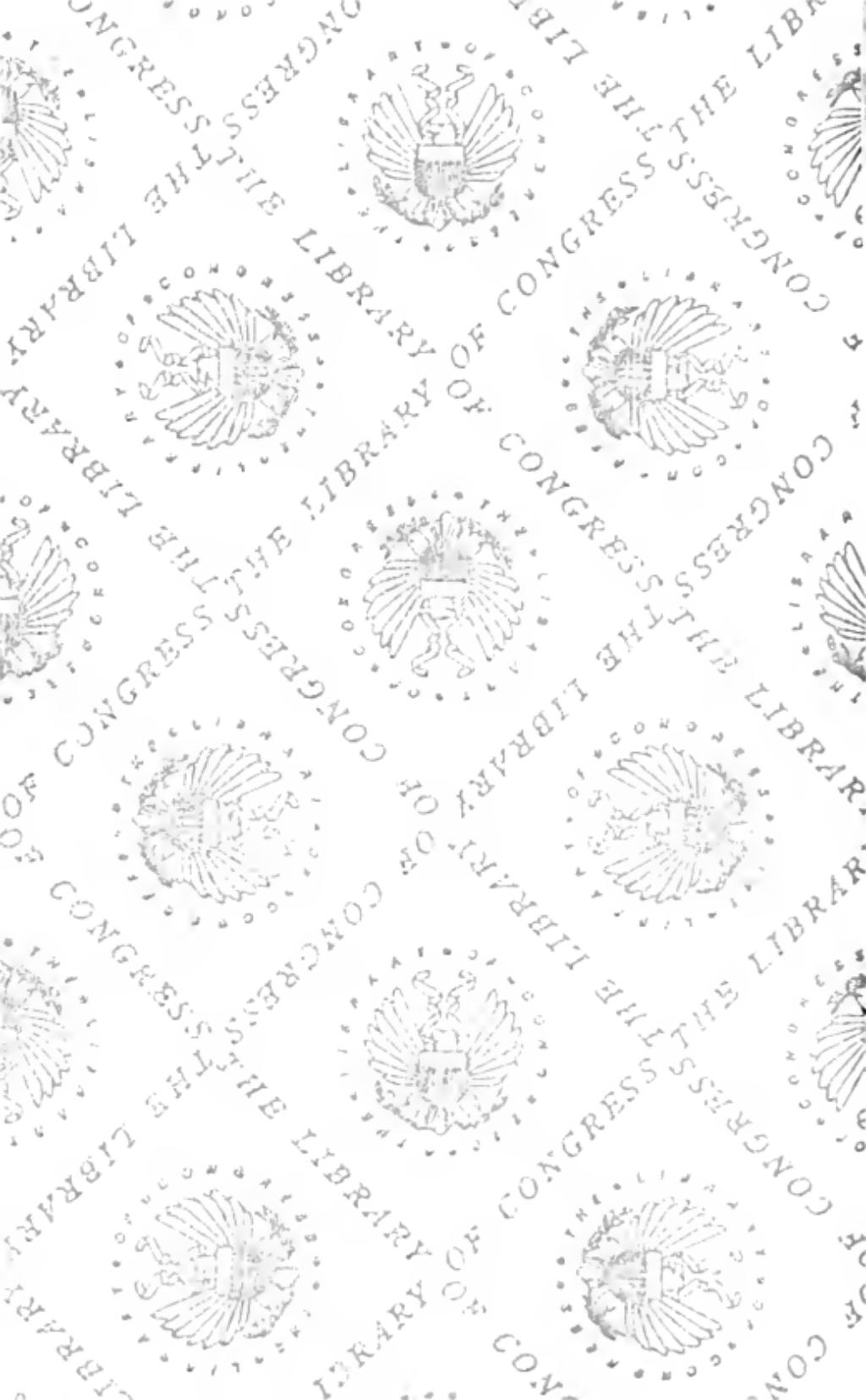
ARTICLE XV.

SEC. 1. This Constitution cannot be altered or amended except by a two-third vote of the Executive Committee, at any meeting after two weeks' notice of such intended alteration or amendment, has been given and entered on the minutes.











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